

## CLAIMS

I claim

1. An improved universal fork comprising:
  - a. a handle shaft, having a back end that enlarges in circumference along its length toward the back end, where said handle shaft also has a front end that is joined to a fork head;
  - b. a fork head having inner and outer tines, where said outer tines define curved outer edges;
  - c. a finger platform, on each side of the handle, comprising a deformation of the handle shaft at the point where the handle is joined to the fork head, where said finger platform defines an enlarged flat side surface against which a person's forefinger is able to press against.
- 15 2. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the sides of the handle and finger platform flat areas are symmetrical to each other.
3. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the fork

head comprises outer tines that form sides of the fork head which are symmetrical to each other.

4. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the sides of the handle and finger sides are symmetrical to each other.
5. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the improved universal fork is constructed out of metal.
6. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the improved universal fork is constructed out of plastic.
7. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the improved universal fork is constructed out of resin.
8. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the fork head comprises inner tines and outer tines, and where the inner tines have angled sharpened ends, with the end portions of the inner tines having a decreased circumference, so that the tips will break off when a shearing stress is applied to them.
9. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the outer tines define an unsharpened dull edge.
10. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the

outer tines define a blade edge.

11. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the outer tines define a serrated edge.
12. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which one of the outer tines define a serrated edge, and the other outer tine defines a sharpened blade edge.  
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13. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which one of the outer tines define a dull edge, and the other outer tine defines a sharpened blade edge.
14. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which one of the outer tines define a dull edge, and the other outer tine defines a sharpened blade edge.  
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15. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which both of the outer tines define a serrated edge.
16. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which both of the outer tines define a dull edge.  
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17. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which both of the outer tines define a sharpened blade edge.

18. An improved universal fork, as recited in claim 1, in which the outer tine defines an outer edge that has a portion of the edge defined as a serrated edge.